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PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.



Annual Report

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

ARTHUR GREENHALGH,
M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.S. D.P.H.

together with the

REPORT OF THE SANITARY
AND CLEANSING INSPECTOR.

RICHARD DIGGLE,
A.R.San I., M.I.C.S.



1925.

Borough of



Accrington.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.



Annual Report

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1925.



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To the Sanitary Authority of the Borough of Accrington.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit for your consideration my Twenty-seventh Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary condition of the Borough, for the year ending December 31st, 1925.

In view of the requirements of the Ministry of Health, the Report for 1925 will be a Survey Report, which means, that progress during the preceding five years is alluded to; changes during that period in the Public Health Services; services contemplated by the Local Authority or considered desirable by the Medical Officer of Health.

An appendix has been provided for the guidance of Medical Officers making their reports, and they are asked to set out their report, as far as possible, in the order there given.

The population at the middle of the year 1925, has been estimated to be 43,600, and this figure has been used in calculating the various rates contained in this report. The figure used for the report for 1924 was 43,860 and for 1923, it was 44,180.

The number of Births belonging to the Borough is 573, which is the smallest on record; in 1917 it was 585, and, in 1924, 589. The average for the five-year periods 1925-1911 was 655 for the most recent, 686 for the middle five years, and 833 for the earliest period; so that this year our birth rate is less than 79% of the average for the years 1911-1925.

The total number of deaths, 601, was slightly above the average figure for the last fifteen years. The average numbers in the five yearly periods were 586, 597 and 636 respectively.

The number of Infant Deaths, 35, is the lowest we have record of. It was 37 in 1923, and 45 in 1924, and the averages for the five yearly periods before referred to were 52, 67 and 98.

Of the 35 Infant Deaths, 17, that is 48%, died during the first four weeks of life, and of these 8 were under one week old.

The Infant Mortality figure, 61.08, for 1925, compares very well with the average for the three five yearly periods named, which came out at 79, 97 and 118 respectively. This year's Infant Mortality, 61, is a record, with the exception of 1923, when it was 58. The figure for the whole of England and Wales is 75 for the year 1925, and, for London alone, 67. This is only the second occasion upon which we have had a better Infant Mortality than the Metropolis.

We are somewhat hindered in our endeavours to save Infant life by the failure of parents to send word to the Centre when the baby is ill. It is hardly fair to the Nurses, who have taken great interest in the upbringing of the child from birth, to suddenly find out from the death column in the newspaper, or from the Registrar's return, that the little one has passed away without them having had notice of the illness.

The certified causes of death show that Heart Disease heads the list, with 19%, Cancer 13%, Pneumonia 7%, Tuberculosis 6% and Influenza 1%, while the Zymotic Diseases, i.e., Smallpox, Typhoid Fever, Measles, Scarlet Fever, Whooping Cough and Diphtheria, altogether claim almost 1%.

The Thursday afternoon meetings, if anything, grow in popularity, if the attendance may be taken as a criterion. 720 Different mothers have attended, and, in all, they have made 4,337 visits. The morning visits of mothers with their babies, show that the Centre is answering a need; and, altogether, I am pleased with the progress of the work as a whole. On 1,087 occasions, mothers have attended in the mornings to have their babies weighed, and to obtain bits of advice appertaining to the welfare of the child.

Again, it is my pleasure to record my appreciation of the very generous service given by the Ladies of the Infant Welfare Committee, who have in various ways made the Thursday afternoon meetings more pleasant, instructive, and efficient. A cup of tea and a biscuit is served for the sum of one penny, and is very much appreciated by the mothers, and adds an attraction to the gatherings.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

ARTHUR GREENHALGH,

Medical Officer of Health.

Natural and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area (in aeres), 3,426

Population Census (1921), 43,610.

Estimated Population (1925), 43,600.

Number of inhabited houses (Census 1921), 11,238.

Number of families or separate occupiers (Census 1921), 11,731

Rateable value, £260,533.

Sum represented by a penny rate, £1,015.

Physical Features and General Character of the Area.

Hilly district on the banks of the River Hyndburn. The surrounding hills are over 1,000 ft., and the Town Hall doorstep about 425 ft. above sea level.

The Social Conditions of the inhabitants are of a better order than most manufacturing towns; the chief occupations being cotton weaving, spinning, manufacturing of cotton spinning machinery, brick making and a little coal mining.

There has been no particular influence of any particular occupation on public health.

Vital Statistics.

Births :—	Total.	Male.	Female.
Legitimate	545	286	259
Illegitimate	28	13	15
Deaths	601	285	316

Number of women dying in, or in consequence of, childbirth :—from sepsis, 2; from other causes, 2.

Deaths of Infants under one year of age :—Total, 35; Legitimate, 31; Illegitimate, 4.

Deaths from Measles (all ages). Nil.

Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages). Nil.

Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age), 2.

Rates per 1,000 of Population.

	Birth-rate.	Death-rate	Death-rate from Tuberculosis of Respiratory System.	Rate of Deaths under 1 year to 1,000 Births.
Mean of 10 years 1915-1924	15.2	13.7	0.81	91
1924	13.4	13.9	0.61	76
1925	13.1	*13.7	0.64	61
Increase or Decrease in 1925 on—				
Ten Year's Average	—2.1	0.0	—0.17	—30
Previous Year	—0.3	—0.2	+0.03	—15

* Standardizing factor, 0.984 ; corrected death rate, 13.5 per 1,000.

Poor Law Relief.

I am indebted to the Relieving Officer for the following information :—

During 1925, out-door relief allowed was £2,999 to the permanent sick ; old and infirm, £65 per week ; to unemployed, temporary sick, etc., £65 per week.

General Provision of Health Services in the Area.

HOSPITALS PROVIDED OR SUBSIDISED BY THE LOCAL AUTHORITY.

- (1) TUBERCULOSIS. The County Tuberculosis Officer carries out all arrangements for institutional treatment.
- (2) MATERNITY. We have no Maternity Home in the Borough, but 93 Accrington residents have availed themselves of the arrangements made at Moorland House Hospital. Abnormal cases only are sent to the Victoria Hospital, Accrington.
- (3) CHILDREN. Beyond the Poor Law Hospital, Moorlands, and the Children's Ward, Victoria Hospital, Accrington, no other hospital is provided or subsidised.

- (4) **FEVER.** This is arranged for with the Bury and District Joint Hospital Board. A retaining fee is paid, and, after this is exhausted, the cases are paid for at a prescribed rate.
- (5) **SMALL-POX.** The treatment is arranged for at our own Isolation Hospital, Baxenden. We have accommodation for 24 beds, and a caretaker is always in residence.

No other hospitals are provided or subsidized.

Institutional Provision for Unmarried Mothers, Illegitimate Infants and Homeless Children in the Area.

Beyond the Poor Law arrangements, no provision of this character has been made.

Ambulance Facilities.

- (a) For infectious cases. Motor Ambulance to and from Bury Hospital, belonging to the Hospital.
- (b) For non-infectious and accident cases. The town possesses its own Motor Ambulance, which is used for the above-mentioned cases.

Clinic and Treatment Centres.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE CENTRE. Situated at the Ambulance Drill Hall, Bull Bridge, open daily from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m., and Thursday afternoons from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m., for consultations and weighing of babies.

SCHOOL CLINIC. Open daily from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m., for the treatment of minor ailments in school children.

DAY NURSERIES. Nil.

TUBERCULOSIS. Under County Council. Dispensary situated at 39, Avenue Parade, Accrington.

VENEREAL DISEASES. No treatment centre in the Borough. Cases coming to our notice are advised to go either to the Blackburn Royal Infirmary or Burnley Victoria Hospital.

Public Health Officers of the Local Authority.

Medical Officer of Health : Arthur Greenhalgh, M.B., Ch.B.,
M.R.C.S., D.P.H., Part-time Officer.

Sanitary Inspector : Richard Diggle, A.R. San. I., M.I.C.S.,
Whole-time Officer.

Assistant Sanitary Inspector : John A. Hindle, A.R. San. I.,
M.I.C.S., Whole-time Officer.

Health Visitor : Miss Munro, C.M.B., three years' general
training.

Part time Health Visitors and School Nurses :

Miss Wadsworth, C.M.B., three years' general training.

Miss Beaghen, C.M.B., three years' general training.

Miss Harking, C.M.B., three years' general training.

Professional Nursing in the Home.

- (a) GENERAL. No arrangements are made by the Council for the provision of general nursing. This, however, is carried out in a satisfactory manner by the Queen's District Nurses, who work in happy co-ordination with the Health Visitors.
- (b) INFECTIOUS DISEASES. The Corporation have no arrangements for the nursing of Infectious Diseases ; but, when there is a prevalence of any disease, for instance, Measles, the Health Visitors give instructions as to the nursing of these cases.

MIDWIVES. There are seven midwives practising in the area on their own account, and they are under the governance of the County Council. No midwives are employed or subsidised by the Health Authority.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

Water.

The supply of water is abundant, and is distributed to every part of the area. The sources of the water are as follows : Cliffe Reservoir, situated in Harwood ; Mitchell's Reservoirs.

situated in Baxenden, and Burnley Road Reservoir, situated in Hunecoat. The latter is connected with a pumping station at Altham, which commands an unlimited supply of water from underground ; this, however, is very hard, and is only used when the ordinary supply is restricted. Some dissatisfaction is expressed by the residents of those parts of the town where the hard water is distributed ; but no satisfactory form of softening plant has been arranged. The whole Gas and Water arrangements of the Borough are under the Accrington and District Gas and Water Board.

Rivers and Streams.

The River Hyndburn, and the streams running into it, cannot be said to be clear and sweet as the rain from Heaven ; and, although the different works abutting upon the streams do something to limit contamination, yet the water, as it flows down the Hyndburn under Bull Bridge, is of a red-dy-brown colour ; but it gets so flushed with the abundant rainfall that no danger to health has arisen from this cause.

Drainage and Sewerage.

The drainage of the Borough is satisfactory, and is now complete to all parts of the Borough. The outfall takes place at Coppy Clough Works, and is under the governance of the Accrington and Church Outfall Sewerage Board. The current report of the Engineer to the Board, Mr. J. W. Newton, should be consulted for further detail.

Infectious Disease.

There has been no great prevalence of any particular disease during the period under review. The following table shows the number of cases and deaths of the principal infectious diseases during the last five years :—

				1925.		1924.		1923.		1922.		1921.	
				Notified.	Deaths.	Notified.	Deaths.	Notified.	Deaths.	Notified.	Deaths.	Notified.	Deaths.
Smallpox	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria	...	...	...	16	5	5	2	7	—	18	3	39	7
Erysipelas	...	...	...	29	1	11	—	27	—	25	—	15	—
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	47	—	40	—	74	—	112	3	207	—
Enteric Fever	...	...	...	5	—	1	—	1	—	1	1	2	—
Measles	...	...	...	—	—	—	5	—	—	—	8	—	—
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	—	—	—	5	—	—	—	3	—	5
Influenza	...	...	...	—	6	—	22	—	7	—	29	—	10
*Pneumonia	...	...	...	74	53	125	59	48	57	33	40	30	39
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	...	...	...	40	28	40	27	39	34	45	37	39	28
Other Forms of Tuberculosis	...	...	...	13	11	13	8	15	10	20	5	11	7
Encephalitis Lethargica	...	...	...	2	1	5	3	1	—	—	1	—	—
Malaria (contracted abroad)	...	...	...	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Fever	...	...	...	—	—	2	—	—	—	1	1	3	1
Cancer	...	...	...	—	80	—	68	—	58	—	66	—	70

* It will be noted that during the years 1923, 1922 and 1921, the deaths exceeded the number of notified cases.

Scarlet Fever.

During the years 1921-1922, this disease was rather prevalent, but was of a mild nature, only 3 deaths having occurred during the whole of the period under review.

In only one house did a return case occur, and, in this, the hygienic conditions were far from desirable.

Of the 47 cases notified during 1925, one case over 15 years of age was in a house with less than one person per room.

Of the remaining 46 cases, 18 were in houses with less than one person per room. 23 with one and two persons per room, and five with two and under three persons per room.

Diphtheria.

During 1925, 16 cases were notified. 5 cases were over 15 years of age, three residing in houses with less than one person per room, and two with two and under three persons per room. Of the remaining 11 cases under 15 years of age, one resided in a house with less than one person per room, seven with one and under two persons per room, and three with two and under three persons per room.

Whooping Cough.

The carelessness which is shown in the control and treatment of this disease is very serious, and I should be glad to have it placed among the notifiable diseases. No deaths occurred in 1925, as compared with five for 1924, three for 1923, and five for 1921.

Pneumonia.

All cases of pneumonia that are notified are visited by the Health Visitor, and, if the circumstances under which they are placed are not satisfactory, removal to Moorland Hospital is recommended.

Malaria, Dysentery and Trench Fever.

No cases of Dysentery or Trench Fever were reported during the period under review. One case of Malaria was reported in 1924, which was believed to be the recurrence of the disease contracted abroad several years previously.

Influenza.

This has been present in all the years under review. In 1922 and 1924 there was a considerable prevalence, but no special action was taken.

Puerperal Fever.

During the year 1925, two deaths were certified, one of which was a transfer from the Blackburn Royal Infirmary.

Diphtheria Antitoxin.

A supply is kept at the Police Station, and is available at all times in cases of emergency, and is made use of by the medical practitioners in a very satisfactory manner. During the year 1925, 20 vials (each 8,000 units) were used.

Blood Tests.

In cases of suspected typhoids, blood tests are taken, and swabs in the case of Diphtheria. These are carried out by the Public Health Laboratory, Manchester, or the Virol Research Laboratories. Altogether 16 examinations were made during the year.

Schick and Dick Tests.

So far as I know, these tests have not been used in the Borough.

Vaccination.

No cases of primary vaccination or re-vaccination have been carried out by the Medical Officer of Health. (Smallpox Prevention) Regulations, 1917.

Tuberculosis.

The Tuberculosis Officer is available every Tuesday and Wednesday for consultations, and, for those who cannot attend during the day, provision is made whereby they can be seen at 6 p.m. on the second Wednesday in each month. Consultations are also granted in suspected cases. Sputum examinations are carried out at the Dispensary. During the year 1925, 191 such examinations having been made—38 positive and 153 negative.

New Cases and Mortality during 1925.

Age Periods. Years.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
			Non-				Non-	
	Pulmonary.	Pulmonary.	Pulmonary.	Pulmonary.	Pulmonary.	Pulmonary.	Pulmonary.	Pulmonary.
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—1 ...	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—
1—5 ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
5—10 ...	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
10—15 ...	—	1	2	1	—	—	—	—
15—20 ...	3	4	1	—	—	2	—	—
20—25 ...	1	2	2	1	2	—	1	2
25—35 ...	7	1	—	1	3	4	3	—
35—45 ...	5	6	2	—	5	3	—	2
45—55 ...	4	1	1	—	2	1	—	—
55—65 ...	1	1	—	—	1	2	—	—
65 and upwards	—	1	—	—	1	2	—	—
	23	17	10	3	14	14	5	6
	40		13		28		11	

Of the 39 Deaths from Tuberculosis, eight were not notified—five pulmonary and three non-pulmonary.

There is reason to believe some carelessness exists; but no case of wilful neglect or refusal to notify has occurred.

No special incidence of any particular occupation can be reported upon.

Cleansing of Verminous Persons.

At the Hyndburn Road Dépôt we have admirable facilities available for the cleansing and disinfecting of verminous persons and their belongings. On application being made to the Health Authority, they undertake to fumigate rooms for the removal of bugs. Bedding and clothing are disinfected by the Goddard Massey Steam Apparatus.

3.—NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

Number of cases of infectious disease notified, number of deaths from these diseases, number of cases removed to hospital, and deaths in hospital during the year 1925 :—

Disease	Total Cases at all Ages	CASES NOTIFIED.													Hospital.		
		YEARS.													Total Cases removed to Hospital or Sanatorium	Deaths in Hospital belonging to district.	Total Deaths.
		Under 1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-25	25-35	35-45	45-65	65 and over.			
Smallpox ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria and Membranous Group.....	16	1	...	2	...	2	6	...	1	2	1	1	...	...	1	2	3
Erysipelas	29	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	6	3	13	5	...	...	...	1
Scarlet Fever	17	...	...	3	2	6	25	10	1	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	...
Euteric Fever including Paratyphoid ...	5	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	3	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...
Paratyphoid Fever ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Polio-myelitis ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Orchitis Epididymitis and Testicular* ...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Malaria ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Trench Fever ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Dysentery ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Faciphthalmia Leberga ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Acute Primæria Pneumonia }	74	...	1	1	5	2	9	7	2	16	4	13	13	...	...	...	43
Acute Influenzal Pneumonia }	40	...	...	...	...	1	1	1	8	11	10	7	1	...	...	2	28
Primary Tuberculosis	13	1	...	...	...	...	1	3	1	4	2	1	...	...	1	...	11
Other forms of Tuberculosis ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals	227	3	4	6	5	11	43	22	19	40	29	35	19	...	27	4	91

* See also page 22.

§ See also page 13.

The Total Number of Births, Deaths, Natural Increase, Infant Deaths and Infant Mortality
for the past Fifteen Years are as follows :—

	Births.	Deaths.	Natural Increase.	Decrease.	Infant Deaths.	Infant Mortality.
1925	573	601	...	28	35	61.68
1924	589	612	...	23	45	76.40
1923	629	546	83	...	37	58.85
1922	709	592	117	...	65	91.67
1921	775	583	183	...	78	100.63
1920	868	606	262	...	84	96.77
1919	640	673	...	33	73	114.06
1918	611	601	10	...	57	93.28
1917	585	565	20	...	56	95.72
1916	728	543	185	...	65	89.28
1915	751	650	101	...	78	103.86
1914	884	640	244	...	104	117.64
1913	894	647	247	...	104	116.33
1912	847	532	315	...	65	76.74
1911	792	711	81	...	143	180.55
Five Years' Averages :						
1925-1921	655	586	76	...	52	79.38
1920-1916	686	597	95	...	67	97.66
1915-1911	833	636	197	...	99	118.84

COMPARATIVE VITAL STATISTICS.

District.	Popu- lation.	Birth- rate.	Infant Mor- tality rate.	Stand- ardised Death- rate.	Pulmon- ary Tuber- culosis.	Non- Pulmon- ary Tuber- culosis.	DEATH RATE from :-						
							Respir- atory Diseases.	Measles.	Whoop- ing Cough.	Diarr- hoea (under 2 yrs.).	Scarlet Fever.	Diph- theria.	Enteric Fever.
Accrington ...	43,600	13.1	61.0	13.5	0.64	0.25	2.56	0.00	0.00	0.04	0.00	0.11	0.00
Ashton-u-Lyne ...	43,910	17.0	92.0	14.7	0.97	0.31	1.27	0.13	0.15	0.34	0.00	0.09	0.00
Burnley ...	102,300	16.0	109.0	15.6	0.81	0.28	3.16	0.47	0.14	4.88	0.00	0.15	0.00
Batley ...	36,390	18.2	87.4	13.5	0.4	0.2	2.8	0.2	0.20	0.19	0.02	0.00	0.02
Clayton-le-Moors ...	8,693	12.0	66	11.8	0.57	0.0	2.3	0.1	0.00	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.00
Chorley ...	31,670	17.3	103.0	12.4	0.66	0.25	1.95	0.34	0.47	0.28	0.00	0.06	0.00
Church ...	6,844	14.3	91.0	13.2	0.43	0.0	1.76	0.14	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.28	0.00
Colne ...	25,250	13.5	93.0	12.8	0.75	0.119	2.29	0.237	0.119	0.19	0.00	0.039	0.00
Crewe ...	17,700	14.7	72.5	11.4	0.57	0.13	1.63	0.10	0.23	0.06	0.08	0.04	0.02
Darwen ...	38,850	14.0	119.0	14.4	0.64	0.17	3.37	0.41	0.10	0.10	0.00	0.05	0.00
Dewsbury ...	54,790	17.26	105.7	15.0	0.54	0.14	3.55	0.34	0.09	0.219	0.18	0.07	0.00
Eccles ...	45,960	17.2	68.0	11.7	0.80	0.04	2.04	0.06	0.13	0.04	0.04	0.00	0.02
Keighley... ..	41,920	14.9	81.0	13.9	0.85	0.28	2.4	0.23	0.09	0.04	0.00	0.00	0.00
Launcester ...	40,110	16.3	86.0	13.4	1.12	0.396	0.198	0.322	0.241	0.12	0.00	0.00	0.00
Leigh ...	46,910	17.8	99.0	14.8	0.85	0.25	3.26	0.02	0.27	0.12	0.02	0.06	0.02
Nelson ...	39,990	11.8	78.0	11.9	0.57	0.20	1.85	0.15	0.20	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.00
Oswaldthistle ...	15,180	13.9	66.0	12.6	0.19	0.19	2.08	0.12	0.06	0.19	0.00	0.13	0.00
Rawtenstall ...	28,960	14.9	87.0	13.0	0.72	0.17	1.80	0.058	0.10	0.029	0.029	0.029	0.00

BIRTH-RATE, DEATH-RATE, AND ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY FOR ENGLAND AND WALES DURING THE YEAR 1925.

	Birth-rate per 1,000 Total Popula- tion.	ANNUAL DEATH-RATE PER 1,000 POPULATION										RATE PER 1,000 BIRTHS.		PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL DEATHS.			
		All Causes.	Enteric Fever.	Small- pox.	Measles.	Scarlet Fever.	Whooping Cough.	Diph- theria.	Influenza.	Vio- lence.	Diarrhœa & Enter- itis (under 2 years).	Total Deaths under 1 year.	Causes of Death.	Uncert- fied causes of Death.	Inquest Cases.	Pract'nr Medical Registered by D'th cer- tified	
England and Wales	18.3	12.2	0.01	0.00	0.13	0.03	0.15	0.07	0.32	0.47	8.4	75	1.0	6.9	92.1	1.0	
105 County Boroughs and Great Towns, including London	18.8	12.2	0.01	0.00	0.17	0.03	0.18	0.09	0.30	0.43	10.8	79	0.6	7.3	92.1	0.6	
157 Smaller Towns (1921 Adjusted Populations 20,000-50,000).	18.3	11.2	0.01	0.00	0.15	0.02	0.14	0.06	0.31	0.38	7.6	74	1.1	5.9	93.0	1.1	
London	18.0	11.7	0.01	...	0.08	0.02	0.19	0.11	0.23	0.46	10.6	67	0.0	8.9	91.1	0.0	
Accrington	13.1	13.5	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.11	0.13	0.34	3.4	61	2.3	6.1	91.6	2.3	

CAUSES OF DEATHS.
ACCRINGTON RESIDENTS.

Males. Females

1.	Enteric Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...
2.	Small-pox	...	...	...	...	...	...
3.	Measles	...	...	...	...	...	...
4.	Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...
5.	Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	...
6.	Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	3	2
7.	Influenza	...	...	...	...	3	3
8.	Encephalitis Lethargica	...	...	...	...	...	1
9.	Meningococcal Meningitis	...	...	...	...	...	...
10.	Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	...	...	...	...	14	14
11.	Other Tuberculous Disease	...	...	...	...	5	6
12.	Cancer, Malignant Diseases	...	...	...	...	33	47
13.	Rheumatic Fever	...	...	...	...	...	3
14.	Diabetes	...	...	...	...	...	6
15.	Cerebral Hemorrhage, &c.	...	...	...	...	17	29
16.	Heart Disease	...	...	...	...	50	66
17.	Arterio-Sclerosis	...	...	...	...	5	1
18.	Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	33	28
19.	Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	...	...	32	11
20.	Other Respiratory Diseases	...	...	...	...	8	...
21.	Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	...	...	...	...	1	3
22.	Diarrhoea, &c. (under 2 years)	...	...	...	...	...	2
23.	Appendicitis and Typhlitis	...	...	...	...	3	1
24.	Cirrhosis of Liver	...	...	...	...	...	1
25.	Acute and Chronic Nephritis	...	...	...	...	4	5
26.	Puerperal Sepsis	...	...	...	...	...	2
27.	Other accidents and diseases of Pregnancy and Parturition	...	...	...	...	...	2
28.	Congenital debility and malformation, premature birth	...	...	...	...	11	9
29.	Suicide	...	...	...	...	6	3
30.	Other deaths from violence	...	...	...	...	10	5
31.	Other defined diseases	...	...	...	...	43	64
32.	Causes ill-defined or unknown	...	...	...	...	4	2
All Causes...						285	316

SPECIAL CAUSES (included above) :

Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Polioencephalitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

Deaths of Infants under one year of age :—

Total	...	...	...	...	...	20	15
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	...	...	4

Total Births	...	...	...	...	...	299	274
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	...	286	259
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	...	13	15

POPULATION : 43,600.

Maternity and Child Welfare.

We have four Health Visitors, one who devotes all her time to Infant Welfare Work, and the remaining three are part-time to Infant Welfare and part-time to the School Medical Service.

The Infant Welfare Centre is situated at the Ambulance Drill Hall, Bull Bridge, and is open daily from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m., and every Thursday afternoon from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m.

During their other work, the Nurses find themselves in close touch with nursing and expectant mothers, and also with children under five years of age. At one time, the midwives so far co-operated with us that they furnished us with the names and addresses of any expectant mother coming to their notice; but soon their Trade Union Organization forbade them to reveal this information. This deprived us of a very useful source of information; but, for all that, the nurses get to know many cases, and are able to give instructions.

The following table shows the number of visits paid by the Health Visitors during the year :—

To Expectant Mothers	(1) First Visits	...	...	63
	(2) Total Visits	...	...	219
To Infants under 1	(1) First Visits	...	...	581
	(2) Total Visits	...	...	5,598
To Children, 1—5	Total Visits	...	...	957

We have no treatment Centres for Maternity cases, but advice from the nurses is available every morning, and on Thursday afternoons, when the Medical Officer of Health is also in attendance for consultations.

The maternal mortality for the last five years is as follows :—1925, 573 births, 4 deaths; 1924, 589 births, 4 deaths; 1923, 629 births, 4 deaths; 1922, 709 births, 5 deaths; 1921, 775 births, 3 deaths. The number of stillbirths recorded during 1925 was 27.

In every case investigations have been made, as is also the case with every infant death.

So far, no ante-natal work at the Centre has been found to be practicable.

Moorland Hospital is the only place where we can send the unmarried mother, illegitimate children, and children permanently or temporarily deprived of a home with their parents. With the exception of a few cases coming under the latter head, Chaigeley Manor Convalescent Home, situated near Stonyhurst, a voluntary appendage to the School Medical Service, has been helpful to us over this difficulty.

Mothers attending the Clinic on Thursday afternoons are able to obtain dried milk and virol at practically cost price. During the past 12 months, 1,285 lbs. of Glaxo, 1,166 lbs. of Cow and Gate, 440 lbs. of Ambrosia and 1,996 $\frac{1}{2}$ -lb. tins of Virol have been sold, the receipts from these sales amounting to £336 5s. 5d. In necessitous cases it is supplied free.

In addition, 1 pint of farmer's milk has been supplied free of cost to 73 different families daily, for an average of 15 weeks each.

As regards orthopaedic treatment, Victoria Hospital, Accrington, and Queen's Park Hospital, Blackburn, each take in cases; and the resources of Pendlebury Hospital for Children is also made use of in suitable cases, the nurses being able to obtain recommends from subscribers residing in the District.

The Medical Officer of Health is also School Medical Officer; therefore, co-ordination is always maintained.

In every case of an Infant Death, careful investigation is carried out; in the majority of cases the Health Visitors have been in attendance.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum is visited by the Health Visitors and treatment supervised by them. The following table shows the number of cases notified during 1925.

	Cases.		Vision unimpaired.	Vision impaired	Total blindness	Deaths.
Notified.	Treated					
	At Home.	In Hospital.				
1	1	—	1	—	—	—

During the last five years I have been able to analyse many of the circumstances connected with the conditions surrounding the births of the infants, and the following tables display under their appropriate years the number of mothers described as mill operatives, this year roughly about 40% ; the number of mothers who followed other occupations such as charring, confectionery, dress-making and shop assistants, about 3% ; and lastly, the mothers described as housewives, making about 57%. In the cases of the two former classes, the time of ceasing to go to work is also shown. At the lower part of the table the babies are analysed as regards their numerical position in the family, that is to say, whether they are 1st, 2nd, 3rd, or so on.

Mill Operatives.

No. of mothers ceasing				1925	1924	1923	1922	1921
work after 1st month				2	—	—	3	2
„	„	„	2nd „	7	13	9	16	22
„	„	„	3rd „	16	21	12	24	17
„	„	„	4th „	23	15	17	17	14
„	„	„	5th „	23	22	39	34	35
„	„	„	6th „	55	47	47	52	41
„	„	„	7th „	63	50	50	60	47
„	„	„	8th „	25	22	27	27	47
„	„	„	9th „	14	14	13	22	23
Totals ...				228	204	214	255	248
Per cent. of total births				40%	35%	34%	26%	33%

Other Occupations.

No. of mothers ceasing		1925	1924	1923	1922	1921
work after	1st month	—	—	—	1	—
„	2nd „	—	—	—	—	5
„	3rd „	3	1	—	5	5
„	4th „	1	—	1	4	1
„	5th „	—	4	3	6	5
„	6th „	3	2	14	8	5
„	7th „	5	2	5	8	6
„	8th „	4	1	1	3	7
„	9th „	2	6	5	6	11
Totals	...	18	16	29	41	45
Per cent. of total births		3 ⁰ / ₁₀	3 ⁰ / ₁₀	4 ⁰ / ₁₀	6 ⁰ / ₁₀	6 ⁰ / ₁₀

Housewives.

	320	355	374	400	462
Per cent. of total births	57%	62%	69%	57%	61%

Of the babies referred to above it was found that there were :—

		1925	1924	1923	1922	1921
Mothers with	1st baby	222	207	245	283	332
„	2nd „	144	145	172	173	189
„	3rd „	93	95	82	102	89
„	4th „	42	54	45	62	49
„	5th „	20	24	28	25	37
„	6th „	16	11	17	19	14
„	7th „	10	11	8	8	10
„	8th „	6	13	5	10	11
„	9th „	7	5	3	7	13
„	10th „	2	6	8	3	4
„	11th „	2	3	1	2	4
„	12th „	1	1	2	1	1
„	13th „	1	—	—	—	2
„	16th „	—	—	—	1	—
„	17th „	—	—	1	—	—
„	18th „	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	...	566	575	617	696	755

Of the 573 live Births relating to the Borough for the year 1925, 92, nearly 16%, have been born at Moorlands. Of these, 84 were private patients who made their own arrangements for payment, and 8 were admitted under the Poor Law.

The 84 legitimate births were all of private patients ; 66 came from their own homes, 14 from the homes of parents, and four were in lodgings.

Of the eight poor law cases, three were legitimate and five illegitimate, of which two went from their own homes, three from the homes of parents, and three were in lodgings.

In addition to the above-mentioned 92 cases, there was one stillbirth, which had been admitted as a private case ; so that, altogether, 93 women from Acerington went for confinement to Moorlands.

We continue to find great assistance in being able to send infants who are not thriving from any cause for a change of air, change of nursing and a change of all external surroundings to Moorlands Infirmary. Altogether 28 babies have been sent for varying periods averaging about 11 weeks. 15 of these cases were admitted under the poor law arrangements, and 13 cases assisted by the Infant Welfare Committee, went as private cases. I cannot speak too highly of the benefits the infants have received at this Institution.

INFANT MORTALITY. CAUSES OF DEATH OF THE 35 INFANTS.

	Asphyxia.	Bronchitis.	Cerebral Hemorrhage.	Cleft Palate.	Congenital Defects.	Convulsions.	Debilitated Vitality.	Difficult Birth.	Diphtheria.	Gastro-Enteritis.	Inanition.	Intussusception.	Laryngismus Stridulus.	Marasmus.	Pulmonary Congestion.	Premature Birth.	Pneumonia.	Suffocation whilst lying face downwards (Coroner's inquest).	Tubercular Meningitis.	Total.
January	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	3
February	4
March	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	5
April	1	...	...	1
May	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	3
June
July	1	...	1
August	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
September
October	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	3
November	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	5
December	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	8
Transfers	1	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	...
Totals	1	2	1	1	2	3	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	4	1	8	2	1	1	35

AGES AT DEATH.

Under one week.	Totals over one week.	Total under one month.	MONTHS.												Total under one year
			1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-6	6-7	7-8	8-9	9-10	10-11	11-12		
8	1-2 2-3 3-4	17	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-6	6-7	7-8	8-9	9-10	10-11	11-12	35	
	4 3 2		3	2	4	2	2	...	2	2	1	...	...

Sanitary and Salvage Departments.



INSPECTOR'S
Annual Report
FOR THE YEAR 1925.



RICHARD DIGGLE, A.R.San.I., M.I.C.S.,
Sanitary Inspector & Cleansing Superintendent,

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
TOWN HALL,
ACCRINGTON.

**To the Sanitary Authority
of the Borough of Accrington.**

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit to you my **TWENTY-SEVENTH ANNUAL REPORT**, giving the work carried out by this Department during the year 1925.

Visits have been paid as follows :

397	Visits to	Nuisances.
324	„	Infectious Diseases.
69	„	Cowsheds and Dairies.
108	„	Factories and Workshops (including Bake-houses).
245	„	Lodging Houses.
30	„	Public Elementary Schools.
123	„	Offensive Trade premises.
204	„	Private Slaughter-houses.
233	„	Public Abattoirs.
35	„	Petroleum Storage Premises.

Summary of the Chief Defects, &c., Found.

Defective	Drainage	...	...	...	...	...	...	28
„	Roofs, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
„	Doors, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
„	Floors	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
„	Ceilings	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
„	Fire ranges, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
„	Windows, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
„	Plaster, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
„	Ventilators	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
„	Flagging	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
„	Ashpits, Ashes Bins, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	121
„	Tippers to W.W.C.'s	...	...	...	...	...	...	62
„	or Blocked Gullies	...	...	...	...	...	...	24
Blocked	Sewers	...	...	...	...	...	...	20
„	W.C.'s	...	...	...	...	...	...	23
Miscellaneous	nuisances	...	...	...	...	...	...	5

In addition to the foregoing, 2,039 defective W.W.C's were attended or unstopped by Corporation Workmen.

211 Notices—177 informal and 34 statutory—have been served in connection with the matters already enumerated, and the whole have received adequate attention. 325 Nuisances have been abated.

Closet Accommodation.

A further reduction in the number of pail closets has taken place during the year, 89 conversions having been carried out. These have all been converted to the fresh water flushing system. During the last five years the following changes have taken place :—

	During Year 1925.	During Five Years 1921-1925.
Number of Pail Closets converted to Fresh Water Closets	89	337
Number of Waste Water Closets con- verted to Fresh Water Closets ...	Nil.	3

The number of each type of Closet now in use in the Borough is as follows :—

Fresh Water 1958	Waste Water 9240	Pails 392
---------------------	---------------------	--------------

In addition to 27 privy middens.

Disinfection.

Infectious Diseases notified during the year :—

Diphtheria	16
Erysipelas	29
Scarlet Fever	47
Enteric Fever	5

The whole of the cases were visited, the premises inspected and instructions given as to the proper means of isolation of infected persons, and the measures to be taken in preventing, as far as possible, the spread of the disease. Disinfection was carried out on recovery or death of the patient, Formaldehyde solution being used as a spray disinfectant, and Sulphur, etc., for fumigation. The bedding, clothing, etc., of the patients were subjected to steam disinfection in Goddard Massey apparatus at our Hyndburn Road Depot, the number of such articles being 750. In addition, 170 rooms, three schools and 31 school books were disinfected. 131 articles of clothing and bedding were destroyed. 14,422 free issues of disinfectant were made during the year.

Linewashing of Dwellings.

Much good work accrues from the practice of lending whitewash brushes to residents. On application for a brush a deposit of 2 6 is made, 2d. per day being deducted for each day the brush is retained. 234 brushes have been loaned during the year.

Common Lodging Houses.

There is again no cause for serious complaint under this heading. The five houses concerned are, on the whole, conducted fairly well, though the standard of general cleanliness could, at times, be improved upon.

Offensive Trade Premises.

There are eight Tripe Dressers' and two Gut Scrapers' Premises in the Borough, and all are maintained in a satisfactory condition as regards the general conduct of the work carried on.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

The wholesomeness of the Milk produced or brought into the Borough is generally good.

No licences have been granted under the Milk (Special Designations) Order of 1923.

Cattle have been inspected under the Tuberculosis Order of 1925, three cows being destroyed and compensation paid.

No legal action has been found necessary under the Acts or Orders affecting the Milk Supply.

No sampling of milk for bacteriological examination has been done during the year.

The number of cowkeepers is 39, all of which are on the register. There are, in addition, 54 dairymen or milk purveyors other than cowkeepers.

Regulations were made under the Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops Order on the 6th of May, 1901.

Meat, etc.,

The inspection of meat and other foodstuffs is carried out by the Medical Officer of Health and Sanitary Inspector. Most of the cattle coming into the Borough are slaughtered at the Public Abattoir under the surveillance of a resident caretaker. As will be seen from the statement which follows, only two private slaughterhouses now remain, the use of one having been discontinued during the year, and compensation paid.

Bakchouses number 77, and their condition is good. Other places where food is prepared or stored are kept under observation, and the conditions obtaining are, on the whole, satisfactory.

Amount of Food Condemned or Surrendered during 1925, as unfit for human consumption, is as follows :—

Tuberculous carcasses and parts: Seven beasts' carcasses (2,612 lbs.) and seven sets of organs.

Diseased, unsound or unwholesome meat (other than above):
Beef, 200 lbs.; Mutton, 357 lbs.; Pork, 317 lbs.; Liver, 11 lbs.

Other foodstuffs: Tinned Milk, 5 tins; Fish, 12 stones;
Sausage, 50 lbs.; Bacon, 18 lbs.; Crabs, 50; Rabbits, 9.

No legal proceedings were taken.

Private Slaughter-houses.

				In 1920.	In January, 1925.	In December, 1925.
Number registered	...	...	...	3	3	2
„ licenced	...	...	...	—	—	—
Total	...	...	...	3	3	2
				—	—	—

Sale of Food and Drugs Acts, Condensed Milk Regulations, 1923, Dried Milk Regulations, 1923, and Milk and Cream Regulations 1912-1917.

The duties of sampling for analysis under the above are carried out by our Borough Police, and 44 samples were taken during the year. The results are as follows :—

Milk	...	...	...	30	...	Genuine.
Jam	...	...	...	2	...	Do.
Port Wine	...	...	...	2	...	Do.
Vinegar	...	...	...	2	...	Do.
Butter	...	...	...	2	...	Do.
Lard	...	...	...	2	...	Do.
Epsom Salts	...	...	...	2	...	Do.
Cheese	...	...	...	1	...	Do.
Marmalade	...	...	...	1	...	Do.
				—		
Total	...	...	...	44		
				—		

CHEMICAL WORK. No special chemical work has been done further to that under the Food and Drugs Acts.

Contagious Diseases of Animals Acts and Orders

On Saturday, October 24th, 1925, a case of Foot and Mouth Disease was reported to exist at a farm in the Borough. All the duties imposed on the Local Authority were carried out, every assistance being given when required by the farmer concerned. All cattle on the farmstead were slaughtered by the Ministry's Inspector, and were afterwards burnt on the farm land. Disinfection of the shippens, pig-sytes, etc., was carried out to the satisfaction of the Inspector.

Legislation in Force. Local Acts, &c., Bye-laws and Regulations concerning Public Health in force.

Accrington Improvement Act, 1882.

Accrington Corporation Act, 1905.

Building Bye-laws, 1892

Bye-laws relating to Nuisances, 1881.

Do. Houses-Let-in-Lodgings, 1881.

Do. Common Lodging Houses, 1882.

Do. Offensive Trades, 1892.

Regulations relating to Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops, 1901.

Factories and Workshops.

Visits to these premises number 108. Six notices have been received from H.M. Inspector of Factories, and all have received attention.

Smoke Nuisance.

24 Observations were taken. After each observation a detailed statement was sent to the owner of the works, and, where the legal limit for the emission of dense smoke had been exceeded, an improvement, at least for some time afterwards, usually took place. No legal proceedings were taken.

Schools.

A good standard of cleanliness is maintained in the elementary schools of the Borough, the water supply and sanitary conveniences being well looked after.

Housing.

GENERAL HOUSING CONDITION IN THE AREA. The majority of the houses are modern and in good condition. Not much slum property now exists.

MEASURES TAKEN OR CONTEMPLATED TO MEET ANY SHORTAGE. To meet the shortage of working-class dwellings, 205 houses have already been built and occupied on Laneside, under the Corporation Housing Scheme, and the Willows Lane site provides for a further 112.

The population figure remains almost stationary.

OVERCROWDING. The principal cases of overerowding appear to be caused by marriages where the couple reside with one or other of the parents, together with other members of the family. There is very little serious overerowding.

FITNESS OF HOUSES. The majority of the housing defects consist of faulty roofs, windows, floors, plaster and doors, etc. Careless tenants are sometimes partly to blame for the state of affairs, and, in other cases, a little early attention on the part of the owner would save much more expense later. The cost of materials and repairs still being high often prevents property owners from putting their property in the state they themselves would desire.

The Rent Restriction Act has been a boon to certain tenants where the owner has seemed unwilling to execute necessary repairs.

ACTION TAKEN AS REGARDS UNFIT HOUSES. Under the Housing Acts and Public Health Acts, 59 dwellings were inspected for housing defects, 31 formal notices being issued. They have received adequate attention. Housing conditions, so far as water supply is concerned, are quite good.

Housing Statistics.

No. of new houses erected during the year :—

(A) Total (including numbers given separately under (b))	...	166
(B) With State assistance under the Housing Acts—		
(i.) By the Local Authority	... ..	93
(ii.) By other bodies or persons	... ..	52

No. of houses in course of erection under Council's Building Scheme... 30

Financial assistance for purposes of increasing housing accommodation :—

Have any advances been made during 1925—

(A) By loans ? No. Amount of loans, Nil.

(B) By subsidy ? Yes. No. 52. Amount of Subsidies, £5,200.

Unfit Dwelling-houses—

Inspection—(1) Total No. of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)...	59
(2) No. of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910 or the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 ...	31
(3) No. of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation...	Nil.
(4) No. of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under (3)) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	59

Remedy of Defects without Service of formal Notices—

No. of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	28
--	----

Action under Statutory Powers—

A.—Proceedings under Section 3 of the Housing Act, 1925—

(1) No. of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	31
(2) No. of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notice :—	
(A) By owners	31
(B) By Local Authority in default of owners	Nil.
(3) No. of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close	Nil.

B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts—

(1) No. of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	Nil.
(2) No. of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notice :—	
(A) By owners	Nil.
(B) By Local Authority in default of owners	Nil.

C.—Proceedings under Sections 11, 14 and 15 of the Housing Act, 1925—

(1) No. of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders	Nil.
(2) No. of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made	Nil.
(3) No. of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling-houses having been rendered fit	Nil.
(4) No. of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	Nil.
(5) No. of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	Nil.

D.—No. of houses demolished voluntarily by owners, or converted to workshops, &c.	Nil.
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Street Scavenging.

The area of road surface in the Borough is 545,245 square yards. The streets and roads are swept once per week, whilst most of the main roads, and certain secondary roads, are swept almost daily. The system of gangs and orderly men remains the same, the Karrier Sweeper-Collector accomplishing almost all main road work. Two horses have been displaced from picking-up work, and we claim a much increased efficiency with the more modern appliance.

Hand labour is still employed in the emptying of gullies.

372 Tons of street sweepings were collected and sold during the year.

The estimated cost of street cleansing, including the emptying of gullies, was £3,500, the actual net cost being £3,864.

Cost to the rates in the £	3.8d.
Cost per 1,000 of the population	£89 17s. 2d.
Cost of emptying 3,120 street gullies ...	£500 (approx.)
Total mileage of streets and roads ...	53

Refuse Collection.

The number of dwelling-houses in the Borough is 11,559, in addition to shops and other business premises, from which refuse is collected.

12,273 Tons of refuse were collected and taken to Argyle Street Works during the year, besides which 985 tons (estimated) were deposited on tips, giving a total of 13,258 tons, or an average of 21 $\frac{3}{4}$ cwts. per house or shop.

Average weight per load collected : Horses 27 $\frac{3}{4}$ cwts.

Motors 29 $\frac{3}{4}$ „

The gross expenditure on collection, including a daily collection of fish garbage, clean waste paper, and collection of trade refuse, etc., was £5,012, the gross cost per ton being 7/6.7. The gross income was £1,067. The cost of emptying closet pails is not included.

The net cost of the collection of all refuse in the Borough amounted to £3,945, being £335 below the estimate for the year. The net cost per ton was 5/11.4d.

Net cost of collection per 1,000 of population	£91 14s. 10d.
„ „ per 1,000 houses or premises from which refuse is collected	£328 15s. 0d.
Total cost to the rates in the £	3.9d.
Weight per 1,000 population per day (in cwts.)	16 $\frac{3}{4}$ cwts.
Rateable value... ..	£260,533 0s. 0d.
Product of a penny rate	£1,015 0s. 0d.
Total rates in the £	10s. 10d.

Complaints.

The average number of applications received daily for ashes receptacles to be emptied, is as follows:—

Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apl.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
1.30	0.91	1.48	2.19	1.37	2.34	1.22	0.88	0.84	1.34	1.80	2.40

Refuse Disposal.

The working of the new plant continues to give every satisfaction. The tonnage handled in the last 12 months amounted to 12,273.

The gross expenditure was £7,081, and the gross income £2,800.

The net cost of disposal was £4,281, or £719 below the estimate for the year.

The gross expenditure per ton was 11/6.4, and the gross income 4/6.7 per ton, the net cost per ton being 6/11.7.

Other figures of interest are:—

Net cost: Equivalent rate in the £ ...	4.2d.
Percentage of net cost per £, to total rates in the £	3
Net cost per 1,000 of population ...	£99 11s. 1d.
„ „ houses	£356 15s. 0d.

The following statement shows gross receipts from residuals, etc., from all Departments under my control :—

	T.	C.	Q.	Lbs.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Fish Meal	86	19	1	0	1,200	10	6			
Meat Meal... ..	0	18	0	0	9	18	0			
Fish Oil	0	10	1	10	5	3	5			
Baled Scrap Tins...	144	6	2	0	179	14	9			
Light Scrap Iron...	23	13	1	0	40	1	11			
Cast Scrap Iron ...	19	14	1	0	67	15	4			
Fat... ..	0	16	1	17	26	17	5			
Glass	4	18	2	0	1	17	1			
Bones	0	6	1	0	1	9	2			
Street Sweepings	372	12	1	0	34	8	11			
Tar-Macadam ...	260	13	2	0	292	10	11			
Waste Paper ...	96	6	1	0	224	12	9			
String	0	5	1	27	1	18	5			
								2,086	18	7
Mortar	5,399	14	0	0	3,098	1	7			
Clinker	28	15	2	0	7	3	11			
								3,105	5	6
Calorific Power (contribution from Electricity Department for refuse burnt)					800	0	0			
								800	0	0
Total amount realised				...	...	...	...	£5,992	4	1
Do.		1924		...	...	...	...	£5,883	17	9

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

R. DIGGLE,

Chief Sanitary and
Cleansing Inspector.

